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African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/176 of 16 December 2005, the present report describes the operations of the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, including the substantive programme and activities it has developed to support the countries of the region in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice. The report discusses the governance and management of the Institute; describes measures taken to initiate and maintain international cooperation and partnerships with other agencies; and indicates further opportunities for funding and support. It also addresses the future of the Institute as a unique regional promoter of social-economic development through crime prevention initiatives and includes a set of conclusions and recommendations, including practical measures aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the Institute.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/176 of 16 December 2005. It focuses on the activities, operations and funding of the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and provides an overview of the Institute's activities aimed at raising awareness about and promoting adherence of member States to the relevant international conventions related to crime prevention and criminal justice. All these measures are aimed at promoting sustainable socio-economic development in the region.

2. Despite ongoing development initiatives and the availability of natural resources, the African continent continues to suffer from low levels of production and limited opportunities for creation of wealth, high population growth, widespread illiteracy, disease, poverty, famine, unemployment and inadequate access to social services. That situation is aggravated by deficiencies in governance, civil conflicts and devastating natural disasters, which subvert the capacity of Governments to invest in sustainable crime prevention and development projects, aimed at strengthening capacity in law enforcement, maintaining social order and streamlining structures for an effective administration of justice—a scenario that weakens the capacity for crime prevention even further. The perpetuation of civil conflicts has been a major factor in the proliferation of crime through unabated violations of human rights and illegal exploitation of natural resources in conflict zones, which in turn fuel further criminal activity, leading to a situation of insecurity in the country concerned and in neighbouring countries and compromising efforts towards harmonious socio-economic development of the region.

3. Events around the turn of the twenty-first century have led to an enhanced level of collaboration among Governments leading to regional cooperation, integration and globalization. In Africa, that momentum resulted in the birth of the African Union, which succeeded the Organization of African Unity, and led to calls for collective action and general thematic solutions to common threats, such as crime, insecurity, gender inequality, uneven social development and environmental degradation, and for the integration of Africa into global networks. It also led to other initiatives, including the development of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and action taken by the European Union and the Group of Eight.

4. The African region is gaining a greater awareness of its interdependence with the rest of the world, in particular when addressing issues of collective concern such as crime. The African Union thus bases its activities on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and the commitment of individual countries to cooperate for the promotion of a culture of peace, stability, security, democracy, constitutionalism and sustainable social development. In that connection, recognition has emerged of the doctrine of good governance, based on the rule of law and democratic institutions, which is a prerequisite for the operation of effective crime prevention systems. Key in that respect is the promotion of a strong civil society, including the private sector, as an essential partner in ensuring the provision of social services. Based on their relevance, Africa's traditional value systems of social control and administration of criminal justice have been systematically incorporated into effective practices for crime prevention and criminal justice.

5. Crime prevention is a complex concept, in particular as regards new trends in transnational organized crime and corruption. Policy decisions regarding possible sustainable solutions include a combination of responses ranging from local resource persons to experts, synergizing the views of intellectuals, political leaders, civil society, the public sector and the media in order to generate a comprehensive and integrated approach. The Institute has a unique role to play in that context. It aims to overcome barriers among States, fosters exchanges between Governments and the strengthening of networking opportunities, and calls for the pooling of available resources, forming effective partnerships for common solutions, as well as reflecting the general desire of countries to share what has been learned from their own experience and to benefit from the initiatives taken and/or best practices followed in other settings.

6. During the period under review, the Institute continued to receive political support from its member States, its Governing Board, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the General Assembly, the African Union, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other interested parties, including the private and civil sectors. The support and assistance received, including through partnerships with donor Governments and agencies, have enabled the Institute to offer technical assistance to its member States and to participate in a number of important activities.

7. Budgetary limitations, reflecting the difficulties of many member States to fulfil their financial obligations to the Institute, continued to hinder the full implementation of the programmes of the Institute. However, the growing concern of Governments of the region about the impact of crime on their development initiatives has given prominence to the need for concerted action and improved the level of response to the Institute's campaign to promote awareness by its constituents to specific programmes and activities with the objective of mobilizing financial support to boost the capacity of the Institute in providing services to the countries of the region.

II. Governance and management of the Institute

A. Governing Board

8. The Institute's efforts to convene the tenth session of its Governing Board, which the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had offered to host in Tripoli, have been undermined by financial difficulties causing a lack of logistical support. A series of consultative meetings were held with the Libyan envoy, representing the Chairman of the Board, and the Libyan representation in Kampala in order to discuss arrangements for the substantive session.

9. The decisions taken by the Governing Board at its ninth session, held in Kampala from 21 to 22 June 2004, have led to a number of follow-up measures, endorsed by the envoys of the States members of the Board resident in Kampala and supported by their respective capitals and representatives at the African Union and the General Assembly of the United Nations. The decisions of the Board have also remained at the core of the impetus to sustain the programme of activities and to gain crucial support from the member States and related agencies.

10. At its ninth session, the Board had urged member States to meet their financial responsibilities towards the Institute. Pursuant to that request, the Director of the Institute met the government authorities of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Democratic Republic of the Congo and held meetings with the envoys of Algeria, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, the Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania, with the aim of mobilizing support. Negotiations are ongoing with the Governments of Mali and South Africa, which have expressed interest in becoming member States. The Chairman of the Board also continued his intensive contacts with member States, reminding Governments of their financial obligations. As a result, a number of countries, including the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mozambique, Nigeria, the Republic of the Congo, Tunisia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania have remitted their contributions. The Chairman will continue to lead the mobilization drive.

11. The Institute was also requested by the Governing Board to explore means of mobilizing further support for its programmes from non-traditional sources such as the private sector. Interest has been expressed by corporate entities in promoting crime prevention programmes that enhance their operations in the region and create the necessary environment to support their investments. In that context, the Institute has approached the banking and manufacturing sectors in Kampala and tertiary institutions such as universities and colleges to start a pilot programme on cybercrime. Another project concerning scams in the Internet (CyberWatch) has been discussed with the African Development Bank and is under consideration. Similarly, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has indicated interest in collaborating with the Institute on a pilot programme addressing examination malpractices in schools (ExamWatch), which is also expected to generate interest from civil society and other agencies.

12. Concerned about the persistently low level of inflow of financial remittances, the Governing Board had proposed that a review of the need for the Institute be undertaken among the member States to gauge their expectations, goals and capacity to sustain the Institute. The matter is expected to be discussed in detail during the tenth session of the Board.

B. General direction and management

13. On the recommendation of the Governing Board, the Institute has strengthened cooperation with other members of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network of institutes. At the regional level, the Institute has made proposals to agencies and crime prevention institutes of universities, human rights organizations and civic organizations to collaborate by forming a network of institutes for Africa in order to develop and enhance local initiatives to address problems afflicting the continent. The proposal has received support from a number of agencies, including the Institute for Security Studies.

14. The Institute continued to enjoy support from the host country, whose collaborative efforts in the pilot projects initiated in the country have strengthened prospects of replicating them on a wider scale in the region. The host Government also continued to offer valuable assistance, guidance and political support to the

Institute in setting the pace for mobilization of further support from the donor community and other agencies.

15. The Institute worked to consolidate its collaboration with a network of partnerships in the region involving law enforcement authorities, legislators, correctional and human rights agencies and policymakers. It has provided technical assistance in improving inter-agency cooperation and developing mutually reinforcing mechanisms to strengthen the capacity of Governments in addressing emerging international crime-related issues. As a result, the flow of crime statistics and exchange of other data from police authorities in the region has increased. The Institute continued to receive regular reports from law enforcement agencies and national prison authorities, including those in Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Seychelles, South Africa and Uganda. It is developing a databank with a view to monitoring crime trends in the region and also to building the capacity of criminal justice system personnel and to disseminating information, in particular on best practices.

16. The Institute's programme of visits to capitals continued to form an important basis for the emerging drive to increase the awareness of Governments to the needs of the countries concerned as regards promotion of stable and viable criminal justice systems. Through increased dialogue there is a rising demand by Governments for intervention at the bilateral or multilateral levels to enhance their ability to combat the growing threat of transnational organized crime through strengthened regional cooperation, including the translation of international conventions and protocols into national legislation. Arrangements are being worked out with the authorities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania in that respect. However, financial limitations have severely restricted such visits by the Institute, which now focuses on strengthening contacts with the Group of African States at Headquarters through increased collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kampala and the Permanent Mission of Uganda to the United Nations with a view to consulting with the respective Governments.

17. Notwithstanding these constraints, the Institute continued to improve its ability to offer the required services to its member States in accordance with their needs. Responding to the increased call for technical assistance, especially in the area of traditional and local strategies of crime prevention and criminal justice, the Institute has designed suitable proposals, stressing the importance of available local resources and using innovative approaches that take into consideration historical socio-economic realities and the need to apply the relevant international instruments. At the regional level, that has made it necessary to focus on common factors that have a positive impact on the process of social change and to encourage a review of penal and legal systems with a view to harmonizing and strengthening the criminal justice systems in the region. As a result, the Institute has been identified by several agencies, including UNODC, as a key partner in promoting activities tailored to regional needs in data collection, analysis, training and the dissemination of information, aimed at strengthening law enforcement, the rule of law and the prevention of conventional crimes as well as the implementation of international instruments to control drug abuse, corruption and transnational organized crime, including trafficking in persons and in firearms.

III. Substantive programmes and activities

A. Overview

18. Insecurity, conflict, poverty, natural disasters and the soaring incidence of crime have a crippling effect on the process of social development, which underscores the significance of the programmes and activities of the Institute. All development partners, including the United Nations, the African Union and the European Union are concerned about the connection between development and crime. With the increased collaboration among agencies and the understanding on the part of Governments that crime prevention is a process involving a comprehensive package of strategies derived from several partners, the setting for social networks to address crime is slowly being put in place. In that context, it is noteworthy that the Institute encourages its member States to participate in relevant regional initiatives, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the East African Community (EAC), the Economic Commission for West Africa (ECOWAS) and the Meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, and to implement their recommendations.

19. The Institute constantly highlights the appropriateness of the regional approach to problems of crime prevention and criminal justice and mobilizes the potential for harmonious growth through the promotion of active cooperation among Governments, academic institutions and experts. In that respect, a staff exchange programme between the Institute and a number of universities has been initiated; an exchange with the University of Ghana is being discussed; the exchange with Makerere University in Kampala is on course; and the exchange with North Carolina Central University in the United States of America started in June 2006 with the visit to the Institute of a team of experts to discuss the following issues: (a) promotion of exchange of best practices; (b) provision of technical assistance to strengthen crime prevention systems; and (c) provision of technical expertise and development of capacity in crime prevention, including the possibility of staff exchange programmes for students and officers.

20. Recognizing the special social challenges of countries facing civil conflict and political struggle, the Institute has developed proposals to address the human rights situation and the establishment of structures to foster crime prevention and the consolidation of peace through the development of reconciliation programmes for such countries. In that respect, contacts have been made with Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda and efforts are being made to reach the Somali authorities. The Institute has appealed to relevant agencies and member States to obtain the necessary human and material resources to facilitate the implementation of such initiatives.

B. Project activities

21. During the period under review, the projects described below were developed and/or implemented:

1. CyberWatch project

22. The Institute has developed a study, in conjunction with the commercial sector, the banking and tertiary institutions, to explore the extent of the effects of the emerging scams on the Internet, which pose a new challenge to the legitimate use of that medium, in particular for financial transactions. The African Development Bank is considering co-funding the implementation of the study. The project, which would first be implemented in Uganda and then replicated in the region, includes information campaigns for potential victims of the scams and the establishment of contacts with relevant legislative and law enforcement authorities at the national and regional levels to raise awareness, as well as to identify and prosecute those perpetrating the scams.

2. ExamWatch project

23. In response to concerns of authorities in the region, the Institute has developed a project to curb examination malpractices in educational institutions, which have a severe impact on the overall performance of various sectors of public service as they foster corruption and fraud in society. The project has generated interest among schools and institutions of higher learning, as well as other agencies, including UNICEF, religious and civic organizations and local employers' federations. It is considered an ideal project to attract support from non-traditional sources as it concerns society at large.

3. Transnational trafficking in persons in Nigeria

24. A joint project developed by the Institute together with the Government of Nigeria to curb transnational trafficking in human beings was launched in June 2006 with the financial and logistical support of the authorities. The widespread problem of trafficking in human beings has devastating consequences in the region. The project offers an opportunity to promote the ratification by other countries in the region of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (General Assembly resolution 55/25, annexes I and II, respectively). The project follows a similar project implemented in Uganda and is also based on the findings of the United Nations survey on kidnapping.

4. Curbing clandestine immigration to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

25. Following a request by the Government of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for technical assistance to address clandestine immigration, a project proposal was developed. A preliminary consultative mission clarified that the problem of immigration to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is a regional phenomenon requiring full participation of neighbouring countries.

5. Factors causing recidivism in Uganda

26. The Institute's collaboration with the Government of Uganda has led to a number of proposals for national action plans to strengthen the justice system and the administration of correctional services. Following the project on social work in prisons, a new study on the factors causing recidivism is expected to have a cost-effective impact (by diminishing prison management costs) as well as a

preventive one. Available information indicates that, while the maximum capacity of government prisons in Uganda was 9,094 inmates, the population had risen to 18,659 in 2005, of whom 40 per cent were recidivists. This seems to reflect the overall situation in the region, causing prison overcrowding and having a negative effect on health conditions in prisons. A training workshop on reconciliation, rehabilitation and reintegration for welfare officers of the Uganda Prison Service was organized in May 2006.

6. Evaluation study of alternative dispute resolution in Rwanda

27. The overwhelming number of suspects awaiting trial in the post-genocide era in Rwanda has necessitated the use of practical initiatives based on socio-economic realities and respectful of cultural sensitivities. As part of its programme to develop innovative projects meeting the needs of member States with limited criminal justice capacity, the Institute has developed a study to evaluate the effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Rwanda with particular reference to the traditional system of administration of justice, the *gacaca* system. Preliminary contacts have been made with the authorities in Kigali and follow-up negotiations are being pursued with the envoy of Rwanda in Kampala. The findings of the study will be used to support the integration of African traditional value systems into the administration of conventional criminal justice systems. Authorities of neighbouring countries have already expressed interest in the project. Given its importance for the social rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders, it is expected that international agencies and other regions emerging from ethnic and political tensions will also be interested in the outcome of the study.

7. Country profile project

28. Effective crime prevention strategies are benefiting increasingly from the availability and use of reliable criminal statistics. The Institute's initiative to establish a database on criminal statistics, already referred to, offers the African region, in particular the law enforcement and policymaking authorities, a useful tool for promotion of information exchange and sharing of best practices. The authorities of the region are increasingly willing to respond to the Institute's requests and proposals for exchange of statistics and the number of reports providing national statistics and feeding the database is growing. It is hoped that funding will become available to post the statistics online, as this would increase accessibility. The project will advance the Institute's capacity to participate in international crime prevention programmes as a source of legitimate crime statistics from the African region.

8. Crime Prevention Journal

29. The Institute has developed a project to publish, on a regular basis, a compilation of research-based reports addressing crime patterns and prevention measures. The journal will provide Governments with information on strategies to fight crime and on crime patterns prevalent in their region, will foster collaboration with publishing houses and authors and resource persons in research-based institutions related to crime prevention and will extend the base of contacts for the Institute in the promotion of its activities.

9. Effective cooperation between the Institute and its partners

30. Contacts have been made with the American Institutes for Research in Washington, D.C., to develop joint research activities, especially in the fields of human resource development, capacity-building in law enforcement and juvenile justice and the dissemination of best practices through the use of modern and/or conventional technological media in the current communication era. Through the subregional bureau of the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) in Nairobi and the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO), the Institute is consolidating inter-agency cooperation in crime prevention. This has improved the exchange of relevant information, in particular crime data, especially for agencies that have online reporting capacities. It is hoped that through increased contacts with the American Institutes for Research, the regional bureaux of Interpol, regional police authorities and UNODC, the Institute will succeed in obtaining technical assistance to overcome difficulties faced by the region in gaining access to online communication facilities. The Institute is also exploring opportunities for collaboration with the National Planning Authority of Uganda, which is a member of a new regional mechanism for the establishment of legislative controls and the reform of legislation regarding the operationalization of information use and storage by means of wireless transmission. The initiative is considered vital in efforts to control cybercrime and to combat the abuse of electronic communication and will promote the ongoing efforts of the Institute to raise awareness and foster the development of a policy regarding cybercrime.

31. The Institute is also consolidating its cooperation with the mass media in order to enhance publicity and is identifying possibilities of joint collaboration with other agencies on issues of common interest. Endowed with online facilities for effective local, regional and international coverage, the media have correspondence sections that cover crime, human rights and criminal justice issues in their substantive publications, which assists in broadening opportunities for dissemination of information and partnerships with the private sector.

10. Extradition and mutual legal assistance

32. Efforts are continuing to finalize the extradition and mutual legal assistance project, which is expected to assist in the process of harmonizing legislation and promoting a consensus in the development of regional instruments. A meeting of experts and ministers is planned to discuss the draft convention on mutual legal assistance for subsequent consideration by the appropriate organ of the African Union, including the African Union Summit.

11. Criminalistics project

33. Together with the Government of Uganda, the Institute has developed a project to improve the capacity of law enforcement agencies in detecting, investigating and streamlining the prosecution of crime through the use of available local expertise, equipment and scientific analysis of data in hospitals, universities, research institutions and other agencies. The regional offices of Interpol and EAPCCO, together with the Belgian embassy in Kampala, have indicated their interest in collaborating with the Government of Uganda and the Institute to implement the project, which at a later stage is expected to be replicated elsewhere in the region.

IV. International cooperation and partnerships

34. As mentioned above, the Institute maintains close cooperation with UNODC and the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, whose programmes form an important component of the Institute's activities in the African region. The Institute participated in the Round Table for Africa, organized by the Government of Nigeria and UNODC in Abuja in September 2005, which resulted in the Programme of Action for Africa, 2006-2010, a set of strategic measures to assist the African region with the development of capacity to fight crime. The Institute represents the region in a project entitled "Data for Africa" designed to assist Africa with the promotion of mechanisms for the collection of data that are needed for policymaking purposes. The Institute's involvement will include establishing a network of African experts on drug and crime statistics. A focal point in each African country will be identified among government officials, researchers or practitioners who are familiar with drug, crime and criminal justice data and have relevant contacts in order to promote the collection, analysis and dissemination of information, in line with cluster VI of the Programme of Action.

35. As illustrated, the Institute also maintains close cooperation with the African Union and other regional bodies and initiatives such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development, ECA, EAC, ECOWAS, SADC, and IGAD in an effort to promote regional cooperation as an effective approach to removing impediments to crime prevention initiatives. The Institute continued to participate in various meetings and conferences at the subregional, regional and international levels and further explored prospects for cooperation and new partnerships.

V. Funding and support

36. The total resources of the Institute for the biennium 2004-2005 amounted to $833,520.78. The funds were derived from: (a) assessed contributions of member States, amounting to $260,881.64 (31 per cent); (b) the 2004-2005 United Nations grant of $380,300 (46 per cent); and (c) other income received from rental of the Institute premises and facilities as well as interest on deposits, amounting to $192,348.92 (23 per cent).

37. For the period from January to June 2006, the total resources of the Institute amounted to $568,247.01, consisting of: (a) assessed contributions from member States ($406,360.89; (b) the six-month allotment received on the 2006-2007 United Nations grant ($135,200) (the approved appropriation for 2006-2007 is $380,300); and (c) other income received from the rental of Institute premises and interest on deposits from January to June 2006 ($26,886.12).

A. Assessed financial contributions of member States

38. During the reporting period, the Institute was able to collect $667,242.53, made possible following payments by the following member States: Gambia ($4,122); Libyan Arab Jamahiriya ($28,944.50); Mozambique ($8,093); Nigeria ($390,961.60); Republic of the Congo ($67,249); Senegal ($37,444.28); Tunisia ($68,873.50); Uganda ($26,424.19); and United Republic of Tanzania ($35,130.46).

Although the Institute stepped up its fund-raising campaigns resulting in the above collections, the outstanding balance in assessed financial contributions of member States is still very high. As at 1 January 2006, out of the total assessed contributions of $4,382,116.60 for the period 1989-2006, only $1,678,808.96 had been received, leaving an outstanding balance of $ 2,703,307.64.

B. United Nations grant

39. Since the biennium 1992-1993 the Institute has received a grant from the United Nations, which, for the biennium 2006-2007, continues to be $380,300. Expenditure experience in the biennium 2004-2005 reveals that $436,518.74 was needed to cover the salaries of the core Professional posts of the Director, Deputy Director, Research Adviser, Training Adviser, Information/Documentation Adviser and Administrative/Finance Officer. As can be seen, the grant provided for only part of the salaries of the core staff, or about 20 months of the required salary payments, while the additional requirements were met from the assessed contributions of member States. As mentioned in paragraph 45 of the Institute's previous report to the General Assembly (A/60/123), the grant is not recosted to reflect the impact of inflation and currency fluctuations. The Institute therefore brings the questions of application of inflation and currency rates against the grant to the attention of the General Assembly, so that it may at least be able to meet the salary payments of its core staff.

40. The Institute wishes to express its appreciation to the General Assembly and its relevant committees for the financial support provided thus far. In order to enable the Institute to adopt an appropriate remuneration package to attract and retain a competitive and high-calibre work force capable of providing the required services to countries in the region, the Assembly may also wish to consider review of the level of the grant as well as the application of inflation and currency rates against it, as mentioned in paragraph 39 above.

VI. The future of the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders: strategies for sustaining the Institute

41. In the 2005 World Summit Outcome contained in its resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005, the General Assembly reaffirmed its commitment to promote peace, progress and democracy through undertakings aimed at providing multilateral solutions to challenges that impede the realization of development, peace and collective security and through the fostering of human rights and the rule of law; and reaffirmed its commitment to eradicate poverty and promote sustained economic growth, sustained development and global prosperity for all through an international partnership for development, sound policies aimed at good governance at all levels, mobilization of domestic resources and promotion of international trade as an engine for development, and to increase international financial and technical cooperation for development.

42. While there is affirmative international action to reinvigorate the process of development through programmes of debt relief, liberalization of trade and a

significant increase in aid, these conditions are not sufficient to change the situation in Africa. Serious crime on the continent endangers the quality of life, the enforcement of the law and sustaining social development. The emerging acceptance of that connection has made the continent a focus of global concern for necessary remedial action through technical assistance programmes at the subregional, regional and international levels, aimed at strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice systems, coupled with the need to introduce benchmarks, for the rule of law to prevail.

43. In that context, the Institute is a unique regional mechanism by which African countries can enhance their social development by eradicating the crippling effects of crime by strengthening capacity at the community level, including by empowering institutions and encouraging authorities to adopt a change in conduct and attitude, thereby establishing the foundation for improved systems of governance supported by strong criminal justice systems.

44. In its resolution 60/176, the General Assembly, noting that the financial situation of the Institute had greatly affected its capacity to deliver its services to African Member States in an effective and comprehensive manner, commended the Institute for its efforts to promote and coordinate regional technical cooperation activities related to crime prevention and criminal justice in Africa; commended the Secretary-General for his efforts to mobilize the financial resources necessary to provide the Institute with the core professional staff; and reiterated the need to strengthen further the capacity of the Institute; urged the States members of the Institute to make every effort to meet their obligations to the Institute; called upon all Member States and non-governmental organizations to adopt concrete practical measures to support the Institute; and requested the Secretary-General to intensify efforts to mobilize all relevant entities of the United Nations system to provide the necessary financial and technical support to the Institute to enable it to fulfil its mandate.

45. While the future of the Institute depends largely on the support of its member States, the Institute recognizes that their economic difficulties impede the full realization of that support. The Institute has therefore approached other agencies with proposals for bilateral and multilateral arrangements, including the implementation of joint activities for the benefit of its member States. In that context, the Institute has formed partnerships with the banking, commercial and manufacturing sectors in the East African region, with civil society organizations, with diplomatic missions of the donor community and with academic institutions—with a view to obtaining expertise and technical knowledge—and with mass media organizations, which can provide the Institute with effective publicity and support mobilization.

46. As the Institute is eager to further strengthen its position as crime prevention agency and mechanism for regional cooperation, it stands ready to consolidate its partnership with the Social Affairs Directorate of the African Union; with UNODC and other partners within the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network; as well as with regional mechanisms, such as the regional police authorities, EAC and the Economic Community of West African States, through which coordination and harmonization of policies concerning law enforcement, crime prevention and criminal justice systems can be strengthened.

VII. Conclusions and recommendations

47. The emerging understanding that the crime problem needs to be curbed in order to safeguard and sustain social development has led to the development of practical and tailor-made initiatives requiring an interplay of factors and a set of deliberate activities that take into account prevailing circumstances. The concerted efforts of the Governing Board and of the Institute's partners and the continued support given to it by the General Assembly, most recently in its resolution 60/176, have enabled the Institute to respond to the needs of member States. In order to further enhance its capacity to fulfil its mandate, the Institute will build on the following pillars: (a) a pragmatic approach; (b) promotion of an effective dialogue; (c) networking; and (d) regional cooperation.

A. A pragmatic approach

48. The main focus of activities will continue to be demand-driven in response to the needs of the member States of the Institute. The overriding characteristic in Africa is the scarcity of resources available for intervention. Crime prevention requires a careful deployment of resources, the establishment of an effective law enforcement system and the maintenance of a strong criminal justice system in order to guarantee adherence to the law and the preservation of order. There is an implied financial burden to this. However, with the optimal use of available local resources and community participation in crime prevention strategies, strengthened through awareness-raising campaigns, the Institute will implement its substantive programme of work in the most efficient manner, to maximize the use of limited financial resources. The Institute will consolidate partnerships with the governmental crime prevention agencies and authorities and will seek to work with the traditional cultural and religious institutions, which wield strong influence over their members, in particular in terms of allegiance and character or behavioural disposition. Such institutions also have their own sources of funding. The Institute will encourage them to incorporate crime prevention and criminal justice concerns into their activities. It will also explore possibilities for joint activities with development agencies in the region, including the United Nations Development Programme, UNICEF, the United States Agency for International Development, the European Union and bilateral partners.

B. Promotion of an effective dialogue

49. The Institute will identify the support needed to strengthen its programmes. Having concentrated in the past on ministry secretariats, it will now also explore communication with heads of specialized units and departments such as the national revenue authorities, as well as with tax bodies, federations of employers and employees and human rights institutions. These agencies can help to advertise the significance of the Institute in terms of technical competence and expertise in offering technical assistance to national authorities. Information will also be provided through consultative missions to

various capitals and the regular updating of the website of the Institute. The Institute will also make efforts to strengthen the existing focal points of contact and to establish new ones through enhanced exchange of literature, bulletins and journals. Such initiatives are aimed at improving communication and at developing capacity at the national, subregional and regional levels to identify the needs and priorities of the agencies concerned. Moreover, monitoring of the effectiveness of policies and of remedial action will be strengthened and research and the dissemination of vital information will be promoted with a view also to making the Institute more accessible to its members and relevant to their needs.

C. Networking

50. The Institute has gained the private sector, civil society, academic institutions and the media as important partners and will further develop its network of contacts with a view to offering a comprehensive response:

(a) The private sector will further assist with the mobilization of resources for crime prevention programmes;

(b) Civil society raises awareness and improves community mobilization in support of the programmes of the Institute;

(c) Academic institutions provide technical knowledge and expertise, in particular in support of research and dissemination of best practices and information;

(d) The media strengthen the drive for mobilization and enhance the publicity about the Institute.

D. Regional cooperation

51. In order to enable the Institute to assist its member States in improving their capacity to address their crime problem, enhanced dialogue with national authorities and local experts is required. However, because of financial limitations, the Institute is experiencing difficulty in making regular visits to capitals to assess their needs and to evaluate the impact of the technical assistance offered. The Institute will therefore increasingly utilize its membership in regional organizations to reach out to its member States with packages of programmes designed to suit their needs. It will also further develop partnerships with the donor community in order to integrate proposals for crime prevention projects in the overall financial packages destined for individual countries or regional bodies. The Institute also plans to examine how to increase its cooperation with the donor community and the General Assembly with a view to attracting increased support for crime prevention activities in Africa.